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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/531,921

07/07/2005

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P05,0116

6015

26574 7590 04/26/2010

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PATENT DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

HON, MING Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/26/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/531,921	Applicant(s) KAMMERLOCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner MING HON	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 93-103 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 93-103 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's amendment filed on February 23, 2010 is acknowledged. Currently Claims 93-103 are pending. Previously presented claims 77-92 have been amended. Claims 93-103 are new.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 93-103 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 93-96, 98, and 101-103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lester US2003/0090697 in view of Murakami et al. US2001/0038461 hereinafter referred to as Murakami and further in view of Conley et al. US2003/0011633 hereinafter referred to as Conley and further in view of Ochiai USPN6178004.

As per Claim 93, Lester teaches a control system for a printing or copying system, comprising:

a first printer and a second printer; (Lester, Figure 1, Component 110 and 120)

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at least one operating unit for input and output of operating information of the printing or copying system and which is connected via an external network connection with said first printer in which is provided a first control unit that controls the first printer, (Lester, Figure 3, Component 300 and 310 and Paragraph [0013]) and

a data line via which the first and second control units are connected with one another and via which the control data is transferred from said first control unit to said second control unit with aid of a data transfer protocol; (Lester, Figure 3, Component 310 and 320, and Paragraph [0046])

the at least one operating unit outputting the control data in addition to the operating information, the control data being useful to set system parameters of the second printer; (Lester, Paragraph [0045], Figure 2, the print job that is to be redirected to the second printer will affect the parameters of the second printer)

the first and the second control units containing a distributed object model with objects aiding access to the operating information and to the control data; (Lester, Paragraph [0016] and Figure 1, Figure 2, due to limited capabilities of primary printer will cause the redirecting of the print job to second printer. The print job and print instructions are considered as objects and are sent to the control units that control printing in the respective printers)

said control data containing control variables, wherein values of the control variables are output with aid of the at least one operating unit, (Lester, Paragraph [0016] and Figure 1, Figure 2, due to limited capabilities of primary printer will cause the redirecting of the print job to second printer. The print job and print instructions are considered as objects and are sent to the control units that control printing in the respective printers)

Lester does not teach comprises a control panel server which the at least one operating unit accesses as a client to output control data;

the first printer comprising an internal network;

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the control panel server being connected via said internal network with a network agent via which a data exchange takes place with a plurality of sub-controllers of said first printer; at least one second control unit in the second printer which controls a plurality of sub-controllers of said second printer;

Murakami teaches comprises a control panel server which the at least one operating unit accesses as a client to output control data; (Murakami, Figure 3 and Paragraph [0299], the server contains control data to control print jobs and is able to output data to printer)

the first printer comprising an internal network; (Murakami, Figure 3 and Paragraph[0299], printer server and printer internally connected, various components exists in the printer server and exchanges data)

the control panel server being connected via said internal network with a network agent via which a data exchange takes place with a plurality of sub-controllers of said first printer; (Murakami, Figure 3 and Paragraph[0299], printer server and printer internally connected, various components exists in the printer server and exchanges data)

at least one second control unit in the second printer which controls a plurality of sub-controllers of said second printer; (Murakami, Figure 3 and Paragraph[0299], printer server and printer internally connected, various components exists in the printer server and exchanges data)

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Murakami into Lester. Lester teaches the use of the primary printer able to reroute jobs to other printers depending on certain parameters. Therefore the first printer contains the capabilities as in a master control panel. It would have been beneficial and efficient to implement this rerouting using a server to allow the number of printers in the network to expand and for more control options to be implemented.

Lester in view of Murakami does not teach graphical elements of a graphical user interface stored in a memory of the first apparatus, said graphical elements being transferred into

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the at least one operating unit and loaded there for display; However Conley teaches it. (Conley, Figure 2 and Paragraph [0016])

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Conley into Lester in view of Murakami. Lester teaches the printer's UI can be accessed as a webpage by the host computer however it failed to disclose that the printer's UI is stored in the memory of the printer. Since there is a direct connection between the first printer and the host computer, the webpage could have been retrieved from the printer. Conley teaches that the printer UI is retrieved from the printer and it will be beneficial because the host computer can retrieve the UI directly instead from a web server.

Lester in view of Murakami and Conley do not teach the values being administered with aid of a management information base; and a Remote Method Invocation Communication using a Simple Network Management Protocol aiding transfer of the control data; However Ochiai teaches it. (Ochiai, Column 7, Lines 8-13)

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Ochiai into Lester in view of Murakami and Conley. Lester in view of Murakami and Conley teaches various components such as server, printer, and copying machines connected to each other via a network. The Simple Network Management Protocol can be used as a network protocol and is effective in communicating between peripheral devices.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the four references to obtain the invention in Claim 93.

As per Claim 94, Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches a control system according to claim 93 wherein the second control unit is provided in the second apparatus to control it; the control panel server is connected with a master system parameter manager provided in the first apparatus; (Murakami, Figure 3 and Paragraph[0299], printer server and

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printer internally connected, various components exists in the printer server and exchanges data and Lester, Paragraph[0045], which contains a master system parameter manager which manages the print jobs and status of other printers)

the control panel server implements a synchronization of settings between the apparatus' image acquisition of the first apparatus and a corresponding slave system parameter manager of the second apparatus; (Lester, Paragraph[0045], by detecting the settings of the second printer and able to redirect the print job to the second printer. This redirection is considered synchronization because it's the same print job in first printer and second printer)and given an input of a first value of a first parameter in the first apparatus, a second value of a same parameter of the second apparatus is automatically modified depending on a value of the first parameter. (Lester, Paragraph [0045], Figure 2, any change in the print job that is to be redirected to the second printer will contain the change.)

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 93.

As per Claim 95, Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches a control system according to claim 94 wherein the first value and the second value are coupled with one another such that, given a change of one of the two values in a coupled state, the respective other value is modified by a same amount. (Lester, Paragraph [0045], Figure 2, any change in the print job that is to be redirected to the second printer will contain the change.)

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 94.

As per Claim 96, Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches a control system according to claim 93 wherein a web server is provided that has access to the memory, and stored data for graphical elements are designed for display of a web site. (Lester, Paragraph [0086]-[0087])

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 93.

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As per Claim 98, Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches a control system according to claim 93 wherein the at least one operating unit has at least one object for input or output of the operating information and the control data, wherein data transfer between the at least one operating unit and the first control unit occurs with aid of the at least one object. (Lester, Paragraph [0016] and Figure 1, Figure 2, due to limited capabilities of primary printer will cause the redirecting of the print job to second printer. The print job and print instructions are considered as objects and are sent to the control units that control printing in the respective printers)

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 93.

As per Claim 101, Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches the control system according to claim 93 wherein a distributed object model using a network protocol is provided for transfer of the control data and the operating information between the first and the second control units, and at least one further control unit or a database. (Lester, Paragraph [0016] and Figure 1, Figure 2 and Ochiai, Column 7, Lines 8-13, due to limited capabilities of primary printer will cause the redirecting of the print job to second printer. The print job and print instructions are considered as objects and are sent to the control units that control printing in the respective printers)

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 93.

As per Claim 102, Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches a control system according to claim 95 wherein an automatic modification of the first value or the second value of the same parameter is activated and deactivated. (Lester, Paragraph [0045], if the print job is not redirected to the second printer then the second value of the second printer will not be updated therefore considered deactivated.)

Analysis is analogous to that made in Claim 95.

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As per Claim 103, Lester teaches a method for input and output of operating information and control data of a printing or copying system, comprising the steps of:

providing a first printer and a second printer, (Lester, Figure 1, Component 110 and 120)

providing at least one operating unit for input and output of operating information of the printing or copying system and which is connected via an external network connection with said first printer in which is provided a first control unit that controls the first printer, and (Lester, Figure 3, Component 300 and 310 and Paragraph [0013])

outputting the control data by the at least one operating unit in addition to the operating information, and using the control data to set system parameters of the second printer; (Lester, Paragraph [0045], Figure 2, the print job that is to be redirected to the second printer will affect the parameters of the second printer)

accessing of the operating information and the control data taking place with aid of a distributed object model objects of which are contained in the first and the second control units, said control data containing control variables, wherein values of the control variables are output with aid of the at least one operating unit, (Lester, Paragraph [0016] and Figure 1, Figure 2, due to limited capabilities of primary printer will cause the redirecting of the print job to second printer. The print job and print instructions are considered as objects and are sent to the control units that control printing in the respective printers)

Lester does not teach and providing the first printer with an internal network;

comprises a control panel server which the at least one operating unit accesses as a client to output control data,

the control panel server connected via said internal network with a network agent via which a data exchange takes place with a plurality of sub-controllers of said first printer;

providing at least one second control unit in the second printer which controls a plurality of sub-controllers of said second printer, a data line also being provided via which the first and

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the second control units are connected with one another and via which the Control data is transferred from said first to said second control units with aid of a data transfer protocol;

Murakami teaches and providing the first printer with an internal network; (Murakami, Figure 3 and Paragraph [0299], printer server and printer internally connected, various components exists in the printer server and exchanges data)

comprises a control panel server which the at least one operating unit accesses as a client to output control data, (Murakami, Figure 3 and Paragraph [0299], the server contains control data to control print jobs and is able to output data to printer)

the control panel server connected via said internal network with a network agent via which a data exchange takes place with a plurality of sub-controllers of said first printer; (Murakami, Figure 3 and Paragraph[0299], printer server and printer internally connected, various components exists in the printer server and exchanges data)

providing at least one second control unit in the second printer which controls a plurality of sub-controllers of said second printer, a data line also being provided via which the first and the second control units are connected with one another and via which the Control data is transferred from said first to said second control units with aid of a data transfer protocol; (Murakami, Figure 3 and Paragraph[0299], printer server and printer internally connected, various components exists in the printer server and exchanges data)

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Murakami into Lester. Lester teaches the use of the primary printer able to reroute jobs to other printers depending on certain parameters. Therefore the first printer contains the capabilities as in a master control panel. It would have been beneficial and efficient to implement this rerouting using a server to allow the number of printers in the network to expand and for more control options to be implemented.

Lester in view of Murakami does not teach graphical elements of a graphical user interface stored in a memory of the first apparatus, said graphical elements being transferred into

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the at least one operating unit and loaded there for display; However Conley teaches it. (Conley, Figure 2 and Paragraph [0016])

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Conley into Lester in view of Murakami. Lester teaches the printer's UI can be accessed as a webpage by the host computer however it failed to disclose that the printer's UI is stored in the memory of the printer. Since there is a direct connection between the first printer and the host computer, the webpage could have been retrieved from the printer. Conley teaches that the printer UI is retrieved from the printer and it will be beneficial because the host computer can retrieve the UI directly instead from a web server.

Lester in view of Murakami and Conley do not teach the values being administered with aid of a management information base; and a Remote Method Invocation Communication using a Simple Network Management Protocol aiding transfer of the control data; However Ochiai teaches it. (Ochiai, Column 7, Lines 8-13)

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Ochiai into Lester in view of Murakami and Conley. Lester in view of Murakami and Conley teaches various components such as server, printer, and copying machines connected to each other via a network. The Simple Network Management Protocol can be used as a network protocol and is effective in communicating between peripheral devices.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the four references to obtain the invention in Claim 103.

Claims 97 and 99 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lester US2003/0090697 in view of Murakami et al. US2001/0038461 hereinafter referred to as Murakami and further in view of Conley et al. US2003/0011633 hereinafter referred to as Conley and further in view of Ochiai USPN6178004 as applied to Claim 96 and 98

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respectively and further in view of Colby et al. US2003/0055965 hereinafter referred to as Colby.

As per Claim 97, Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches a control system according to claim 96. Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai do not teach wherein the data for the graphical elements of the user interface are generated with aid of a Java programming language or Hypertext Markup Language and are transferred from the control panel server to the at least one operating unit by means of Remote Method Invocation; However Colby teaches it. (Colby, Paragraph [0051] and [0053])

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Colby into Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai. When sending data to peripheral devices, there must be some instructions to direct the transmission to the correct end destinations. Java is a popular object oriented programming language therefore sending objects will benefit from being defined in Java.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the five references to obtain the invention in Claim 97.

As per Claim 99, Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches a control system according to claim 98. Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai do not teach wherein a standardized model for abstract description of distributed objects occurs according to a Common Object Request Broker Architecture; However Colby teaches it. (Colby, Paragraph [0051])

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Colby into Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai. When sending data to peripheral devices, there must be some instructions or

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model to direct the transmission to the correct end destinations. It is well known to use a Common Object Request Broker Architecture.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the five references to obtain the invention in Claim 99.

Claim 100 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lester US2003/0090697 in view of Murakami et al. US2001/0038461 hereinafter referred to as Murakami and further in view of Conley et al. US2003/0011633 hereinafter referred to as Conley and further in view of Ochiai USPN6178004 as applied to Claim 93 and further in view of Schlonski et al. USPN7200613 hereinafter referred to as Schlonski.

As per Claim 100, Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches a control system according to claim 93 wherein; and in which the first control unit of the printing or copying system has access to the control data with aid of said information. (Lester, Paragraph [0016])

Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai does not teach information of the control data are stored in a central database of the printing or copying system, wherein the information comprises at least a hierarchical classification of existing structure of control units and function units (Schlonski, Column 4, Lines 34-36 and Figure 2A)

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teachings of Schlonski into Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai. Lester in view of Murakami, Conley, and Ochiai teaches the use of a server panel. The server's functions will be improved by the use of a database to handle the various functionality of the server. The database has a hierarchical system to allow for efficient access.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the five references to obtain the invention in Claim 100.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MING HON whose telephone number is (571)270-5245. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30 to 6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark K. Zimmerman can be reached on (571)272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. H./
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Mark K Zimmerman/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625